



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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### NATURAL GAS RATES TO CHANGE FOR AQUILA, INC. d/b/a AQUILA NETWORKS----MPS UNDER SCHEDULED SUMMER NATURAL GAS FILING

Jefferson City (April 29, 2004)----To reflect estimated changes in the cost of natural gas for the summer season, Northern System natural gas customers of Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS will experience an increase in natural gas rates under a filing reviewed and accepted by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This rate change, which will take effect on April 30, 2004, is interim subject to refund.

A residential customer currently pays \$0.65240 per Ccf (100 cubic feet of gas). Under this filing, the rate will increase to \$0.68974 per Ccf, an increase of approximately 3.7 cents per Ccf. The effect on a typical residential customer for the summer season (April through October) is an increase of approximately \$8 when compared to rates currently in effect.

Approximately 60% to 75% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. **The wholesale cost of natural gas** (the cost the local natural gas company must pay to its suppliers for natural gas) **is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.** The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply and demand. The Missouri Public Service Commission does conduct an annual regulatory review to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Aquila, Inc. d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS serves approximately 11,200 natural gas customers in its Northern System which includes the Missouri counties of Livingston, Grundy, Chariton, Howard and Linn.

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